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Athabasca River Glacial Melt Global Warming Blues

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For me the door to the woods is the door to the temple
—Mary Oliver, "Winter Hours"

Afoot by the flow
Of temples, of hallowed snow,
Of the glacial cloak:

Peaks wrapped in white rime
Frozen, riverine, sublime,
A shroud, nigh revoked:

Athabasca blues,
Pilgrims wading in the pews:
Doused, yet still afloat.



GENE HYDE is a writer, photographer, and archivist living in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. His essay "Shooting Rivers and Smoldering Churches: Fire and Rain in Southern Appalachia" is forthcoming in *Where the Sweet Waters Flow: Contemporary Appalachian Nature Writing* (West Virginia University Press).